

**DRAFT
TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 18, 2012**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Pankowski, Chair; Ray Slavin, Amy Squyres; Jennifer Geddes, Ron Heinbaugh, Robin Woods

STAFF: Olive Hauser, Social Service Director; Beth Paris, Senior Center Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pankowski called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was not present.

SENIOR CENTER REPORT.

Ms. Paris said that she had generated a report on membership and reviewed the current numbers. The current building is being used more for more programming. Ms. Paris updated everyone on the recent Volunteer Recognition event and said it was a great success. She also gave a brief overview of the recent programs such as an afternoon BINGO and the No Regrets program.

Ms. Woods joined the meeting. A quorum was now present.

Chairman Pankowski said that he would be absent for the May meeting, so Ms. Geddes will chair the May meeting.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

The following correction was noted:

Page 4, paragraph 1, line 1: please change the following from "Aging in Place will be having a free lunch on March 22nd" to "Aging in Place will sponsoring a lunch on March 22nd"

**** MS. GEDDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 21, 2012 AS CORRECTED.**

**** MR. HEINBAUGH SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

SENIOR CENTER REPORT CONT'D.

Ms. Woods asked about one of the discussions covered in the minutes regarding the pro active issues involving the use of the Center. Ms. Squyres asked whether the Arts Council and the Board of Selectmen were aware that the main purpose of the new Center will be for the Seniors from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Discussion followed about how the building will be used after 3 p.m., since there are other groups who wish to utilize the facility also. The post 3:30 uses would have to be consistent with the Senior Center programs to avoid having to additional take down and set up chores. Ms. Swiatek will be in charge of the space.

Mr. Heinbaugh said that he had concerns about the fact that it was being referred to as a Community Center. Chairman Pankowski said that there has been a nationwide move away from the term "senior". Ms. Hauser pointed out that it would have to be firmly planted in policy to insure that the seniors are the primary users with priority for the new Center. Ms. Paris commented that it would important to have room to expand the programs if needed. Discussion followed.

SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT.

Ms. Hauser announced that the Darien/New Canaan unit of the Salvation Army is looking for new members. She gave an overview of the group and said that the unit can assist seniors with financial concerns.

The grandparents scam is alive and well in Darien. This involves a person calling a senior claiming to be a grandchild. The caller then states he/she has been arrested or stuck in jail at a distant location and requests that a large sum of money be sent as assistance.

Drug Disposal Day at the Town Dump will be held on April 28th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The phase one Allen O'Neill residents have been relocated. Tear down is scheduled for next week with construction slated to start next month.

The construction of the model homes at Hoyt and Wakefield Street has started.

Requests for fuel assistance have been coming in. Funds from the Fuel Bank and another source are being utilized to meet these needs.

Ms. Hauser said that Pantry had received a generous donation of food from the First Congregational Church 8th grade confirmation class who not only delivered the food, but also shelved it.

Ms. Ramsteck, the part time social worker, will be receiving training on the Choices Counselor training for Medicare.

One of the three recent fires in Darien was caused by a home care aide who tossed a cigarette butt from a porch. The patient is bed ridden and the house had no smoke detectors. Another fire was started by a laptop left on a couch. The third fire was started by lighting in a chicken coop. With the weather so dry, these issues are critical.

Ms. Woods then updated the Committee on the Housing Committee. Mr. Dave Campbell is the new chairman. The architect is working closely with Ms. Paris.

OLD BUSINESS.

The Edgerton group, now known Darien Senior Housing Group, has been discussing the construction of 20 units with no garage. There may be some push back about the moratorium points for housing. An informal presentation may be on the Planning and Zoning agenda in May. Work has started on creating a 501(c)3. Ms. Hauser commented that there are options such as when hiring a contractor to plow, an additional service can be added to have the cars cleaned off. A brief discussion followed about how to deal with reserving parking for the seniors due to the presence of the soccer field.

NEW BUSINESS.

Ms. Woods asked for an update on the Edgerton neighbors. Chairman Pankowski said that he had told the neighbors to contact one of the group if they had suggestions. However, there has been no additional contact

ADJOURNMENT.

Chairman Pankowski adjourned the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

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Commission on Aging Report
Darien Senior Activities Center
April 18, 2012
Respectfully submitted: Beth Paris Coordinator

April saw the completion of the Department Head Quarterly Report. The Senior Center report is incorporated into the Parks and Recreation Report but the Coordinator writes a separate report and sends to BOS and COA as well as Parks and Recreation Director. Our numbers are solid and higher than usual for the winter quarter thanks to a very mild winter.

Program Attendance:

January: 1548	Unique Users: 1382
February: 1782	Unique Users: 1601
March: 1960	Unique Users: 1790
Total: 5290	Total: 4773

Lunch:

January: 460	Brown Bag: 115
February: 573	Brown Bag: 136
March: 666	Brown Bag: 178
Total: 1699	Total: 429

Total: Program Days: 61

New Members: 19

Membership Darien: 461 Non Resident: 186 Total: 647

Sue and I have had several meetings regarding building use and she has drafted policy that we will continue to review. The Architectural team has come into the Center to meet with the Woodshop volunteers to go over their needs and concerns for the new space. Sue and I met with Team to go over more finishes and clarification on room sizes etc. I am also gathering Building Use Policy from several Senior Centers in order to facilitate discussion and planning with P&R staff and Senior Center for programming.

Our Volunteer Recognition day was a great success with 57 volunteers attending, enjoying a complimentary lunch, entertainment and a little gift. The intergenerational Bingo with Middlesex 8th Grade was a HUGE success 85 Kids and 47 Seniors a great time for both groups. Robin Williams Money Conversation for Women Series continues and is enjoying good participation. We participated in National Health Care Decision Days with 27 different folks attending-Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Fairfield County pleased. We are also participating in the National Survey.

Ongoing Works in Progress: Daily Stats

Program Planning Summer/Fall
Quarterly Report Submitted
Staff Meetings

Back Support AIP+Gallivant
Caregiver Support
Volunteer Recognition Program
Volunteer Recruitment
Building Use Policy (Mather's)

April Program Highlights: 2nd Blood Pressures

3rd **AIP+Gallivant Home Safety Program**
3rd Art Gottlieb Presents Empire State Building
4th Darien Garden Club
5th & 26th Bingo w/Pam James
11th **AARP Driving Course**
11th, 18th, 25th **Money Conversations for Women/Williams**
12th **Volunteer Appreciation Day**
12th Patsy Shore Duet
13th **Bingo with Middlesex Middle School**
13th AARP Meeting
16th **Plan or no Regrets-National Health Care Decision Day**
17th Take Shape for Life
17th Caregiver Educational Support Group
20th Ask A Lawyer
23rd & 30th **Felting Class W Holly Arato**
24th **Kristen Cusato Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease**
25th **Spring Crafts with DHS students**

Building Issues: Overhaul the computer room

Drain Dislodged from pipe fitting one of the kitchen sinks-reattached
And tightened.
Lost Computer and Phones 3 x's

Meetings Attended: April 2nd AIP+Gallivant Program Committee; April 10th Architect Meeting; April 11th SWCAA Advisory Board; Meeting SS Olive Hauser April 16th April 18th COA meeting;